13

A NARRATIVE Of the Royal Fiſhings OF *GREAT BRITAIN* and *IRELAND*, with Buſſes for Pickled Herrings and Barrel-Cod, after the manner of the *HOLLANDERS*.

WITH

Further Diſcoveries and Helps for the Management thereof in a profitable way for the UNDERTAKERS.

Publiſhed for the ſatisfaction of all therein concern'd.

LONDON,
Printed by *W. Godbid* in *Little-Britain* over againſt the *Anchor*-Inn. 1661.

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30 JUNE 1915

A NARRATIVE ABOUT *The Royal Fiſhing.*

IN my former Treatiſe about the *Royal Herring-Buſs-Trade*, printed 1641. I have given directions for the building, rigging, and fitting out of a Buſs in an experimental way, practiſed by the Right Honourable *Philip* Earl of *Pembroke* and *Montgomery*, Lord Chamberlain of His Majeſties Houſhold from the year 1632. till the year 1640. which was carried on in the way of an Aſſociation; by which many Buſſes were builded and imployed by the Directions of the Netherlandiſh-Fiſhermen, whom Sir *William Courten* of *London* Merchant procured, and got them Endenized, and they, their Wives and Children, dwelt here, and taught our Shipwrights to build Buſſes after the *Holland* manner; and cure the Herrings, and make the Nets, and all things thereunto belonging; by which means our Engliſh Fiſhermen attained to all the Arts and Skill thereof, and made many thouſand Barrels of pickled Herrings and Cod-fiſh, and did vent them in the places where the *Hollander* vented, and found current ſale, and full allowance of the goodneſs of

the Fiſh equal to the Hollanders; as by the ſeveral Factors Accompts, which the Author of this Treatiſe hath ready to be produced to any that are deſirous to peruſe them. Now ſince the printing of the ſaid Book, which was peruſed by a Parliament-Committee, and appointed to be publiſhed for the general direction of the whole Kingdom; whereof no fruit hitherto hath come to the Nation, though all generally approved of the Work; yet finding no man to put it into action, I was much diſcouraged thereat, having formerly in my Narrative made it plainly appear, that the ill ſucceſs we found in the way of our Aſſociations, was not through the unprofitableneſs of that Imployment, but in the unskilfull Managers thereof, and the extraordinary diſcouragements we encountred with; for the *Dunkirkers* and others the Subjects of the King of *Spain* in the *Low-Countries*, have taken ſundry of the Buſſes, impriſoned and evilly treated their Fiſhermen, ſome of them died in priſon, others they ranſomed at great ſums. The Damage which the ſaid Earl and his Aſſociates do juſtly challenge for their Buſſes ſo taken, loſs of men and Ranſoms, detention of their Goods, and preventing of their Fiſhing, amounts to 50000 *l.* and upwards. And having ſince met with a Book called *Britain Buſs*, printed in *anno* 1615. which doth very exactly ſet forth ſuch Inſtructions as the Author could then attain unto, which he took upon enquiry and information, but not on his own knowledge or others practice, onely he cites Sir *W. Harvy* a noble Knight that builded and ſet out a Buſs of 100 Tun, whom I well knew, and had ſeveral meetings with at Mr. *John Fletcher*'s ſhop a Ropeſeller in *Thames-ſtreet*, who was Partner with him in the building the ſaid Buſs, in *an.* 1615. which no man ſeconded until the Lord Chamberlains Aſſociation, that began in the year 1632. as is before mentioned. Alſo I have ſeen ſundry Treatiſes that have been ſet forth about this Subject, as I finde by the Book called *Lex Mercatoria*, who cites one Book called, *The Britiſh Monarchy*, printed in the year 1576. Another intituled, *Hitchcocks New-years-gift*, printed *an.* 1685. Another called, *Englands way to win wealth*; and another called, *The Trades Increaſe*, in the year 1615. And the Author of the Book

Book called *Lex Mercatoria*, doth ſet forth, That its not much above 100 years ſince that the *Hollanders* Fiſhing-trade began for Herrings, Cod, and Ling, which took its original from the Engliſh. One named *Violet Stevens*, and other diſcontented Fiſhmongers, which departed the Realm of *England*, and went to the Town of *Anchuſen*, where they procured the Inhabitants to fiſh for them in the Seas, Streams, and Dominions of *Great Britain*; which Inhabitants upon the deceaſe of the ſaid Engliſhmen took the whole Trade to themſelves, which afterwards was diſperſed into ſeveral Towns, whereby the Trade is ſo increaſed, that *Holland* and *Zealand* have above 2000 Buſſes and Fiſhing-Veſſels, which by the bleſſing of God that above 600000 Laſts of Fiſh are taken yearly in the Dominions of the King of *Great Britain*. And he ſaith, that one *Tobias Gentleman* a Fiſherman, made a Treatiſe, Intituled, *Englands way to win Wealth*; who ſaith they are ſeen to ſail out of the *Maze*, *Texell*, and flie 1000 Sayl together to catch Herrings in the North Seas, moſt of them Ships of 120, ſome of 100 Tuns, and others of 60 Tuns apiece; having in them 24 men, and ſome 20; ſome 16 men in a Veſſel, and they continue their courſe Northweſt and by North until they arrive at the Iſland of *Sheteland*, which lieth in the heighth of 60 Degrees of Northerly Latitude; and the Herrings which they take, are preſently ſent away by other Veſſels, called Yagors, into the Eaſt-countries, ſome to *Riga* and *Revel*, ſome to the *Narve*, *Ruſſia*, and *Stockholme*; and all *Poland*, *Pruſſia*, *Pomerland*, *Littuania*, *Stattene*, *Lubeck* and *Denmark*, *Deep*, *Burdeaux*, *Rochel*, *Nants*, *Morloix*, *Cane*, *Rouen*, *Paris*, *Amiens*, and all *Piccardy*, &c. Their Cod and Ling is done with ſmaller Ships of 40 Tuns burden, called Pinks or Well-boats. Alſo they have a Fleet of Fly-boats of 200 Tuns burden or more, which be at the North-eaſt of *Sheteland*, having ſmall Boats with them, called Cobbles; and the commodious Fiſher-Towns he notes to be *Colcheſter*, *Harwich*, *Orford*, *Alborrough*, *Dunnidge*, *Walderſwick*, *Sould*, *Yarmouth*, *Blackney*, *Wells*, *Lyn*, *Boſton*, *Hull*, *Scarborough*, *Hartlepoole*, *Whittby*, *Marske*, *Stockton* and *Giſborough*, *Newcaſtle* and others

Northwards, &c. And further he tells us, that St. *Dunſtan* the Biſhop, termed to be the Patron of the Goldſmiths, had no other Elixar or Philoſophers Stone than the Gold and Silver, which by the Benefit of Fiſhing was obtained; whereby the Kingdoms Plate and Bullion was procured. For the advancement of which Fiſhing-Trade he did adviſe, that three Fiſh-days ought to be kept in a week, which cauſed alſo more abſtinence; and hence the Proverb came, *That* St. Dunſtan *took the Devil by the noſe with his pinchers.* All which recital is to ſhew, that the Engliſh formerly had the ſole Fiſhing, and did ſerve the *Netherlands* and all other Nations with Pickled-herrings, Cod, and Ling, whereby the Poor were relieved, and Trading thereby much cheriſhed: which Imployment the *Netherlanders* having gotten, the States of *Holland* and *Weſt-Freizland*, by their Proclamation ſay, that the Trade of the general fiſhing for Herrings, and the great fiſhings, is one of the principal Means and Happineſs of their Countries and the Inhabitants thereof. Now for as much as his Majeſty was graciouſly pleaſed to receive a Petition exhibited in *June*, 1660. The Copy whereof followeth.

TO

TO THE

High and Mighty MONARCH CHARLES the Second,

By the Grace of God King of *England*, *Scotland*, *France* and *Ireland*, Defendor of the Faith, *&c.*

The Humble Petition of Simon Smith, *late Agent for the Royal Fiſhing.*

SHEWETH,

THat *Your Majeſties late Royal Father of Glorious Memory, did in the year* 1632. *upon the following Motives*, viz.

1. *The great plenty of Fiſh in the Seas, Rivers, and Creeks of His Majeſties Dominions.*

2. *The employment of all ſorts of People.*

3. *The advancement of Trade.*

4. *The increaſe of ſtrength to the Navie.*

5. *The profit that might accrew to His Majeſties Subjects.*

6. *The increaſe of ſundry Manufactures for ſetting at work idle and vagrant people, whereby they may be able to relieve themſelves*

and

and others, and Merchandize and Traffick may by their industry be improved; Constitute and establish a Society of Fishers, and declared that he was resolved by all good occasions favourably to assist the said Trade, and graciously to accept the forwardness of all those who should express their zeal to His Majesties Service in so general and publick an undertaking; it being then resolved and concluded by His Majesty, that the said Trade in it self was very honourable and necessary for this Kingdom, as also hopefull and likely to prove very beneficial to the particular Adventurers. Now, that the true managing, and most advantagious prosecution thereof, is by experience discovered, as by the Petitioners Book annexed are expressed. Whereupon the Right Honourable Philip *late Earl of* Pembroke *and* Mountgomery, *and his Associates, did cause sundry Vessels to be built, which imployed many Families in making of Nets and other Provisions which yearly went out to the fishing, and performed the taking and curing of Herrings and Barrel-Cods, and found Foraign vent, which continued until the year* 1640. *although the Adventurers were much hindered and damaged by the* Dunkirkers,

kirkers, *to the value of ten thouſand pounds and upwards, for which no Reparation could be as yet had, whereby the proſecution thereof was given over, and the Fiſhers and others that were trained up to a right underſtanding of the buſineſs, were diſperſed by reaſon of the National Troubles increaſing; which Troubles having begotten great numbers of poor Families and Vagrants in the Nation, who for want of Employment are brought into a miſerable condition, and will periſh unleſs ſome ſpeedy courſe be taken for their relief. The conſideration whereof hath ſtirred up Your Petitioner humbly to preſent this Herring-Buſs Fiſhing to Your Majeſty, as the onely Employment for redreſs therein; Firſt, For the making of Nets, which will ſet on work all ſorts of people, both young and old, in the Trades of* Hemp-beaters, Hatchelers, Hemp-dreſſers, Twine-ſpinners, Net-makers, Beeteſters, Brayders, Labourers *for tanning the Nets*, &c. *Alſo*, Shipwrights, Joyners, Maſt-makers, Pully-makers, Rope-makers, Sail-makers, Smiths, *and ſundry others; Alſo the proviſions for Casks, Clap-boards, Coops*, Clevers, Hoopers *and others; The Manufactures of,*

and belonging to every Buſs will ſet on work twenty Families, beſides the breeding of Country Youths to be ſerviceable Mariners in ſhort time, the exportation of the Herring to Foraign parts, will imploy many Ships, and make a greater importation of commodities, as Hemp, Pitch, Tarr, Rozen, Maſts, Deals, Clap-boards, Salt, and ſundry other Proviſions. This Work being of ſo great conſequence, requires Your Majeſties moſt gracious and ſerious conſideration, to be made a National buſineſs, and ſuch perſons choſen for the managing thereof, as for conſcience ſake, may be for the publick good, and not ſelf-ends; for if it be recommended to all Corporations *in the* Nation, *and in every* County, *to raiſe a ſtock to buy Hemp and other Materials, to ſet their poor on work, and to provide Artiſts to teach and manage the making of* Nets, &c. *to be ſent to a Magazine, at the next Port a Buſs may be there built and furniſhed out for that* County, Town, or Corporation, *and ſo in the Fiſhing-ſeaſon may go forth to the Fiſhing-grounds at the Iſland of* Sheteland, *where the* Hollander *hath his Rendezvous for all his Buſſes, as by the annexed Book thereof appeareth, and return with great profits to the Imployers.* Your

Your Petitioner therefore moſt humbly implores Your Majeſties gracious favour to take the Premiſſes into Your Majeſties Conſideration, and to give ſuch furtherance and countenance to the ſame, as to Your Gracious Majeſty ſhall ſeem fitting, and the benefit of ſuch a buſineſs requires.

And Your Petitioner ſhall ever pray for Your Majeſties long and happy Reign over us.

And thereupon His Majeſty (manifeſting his great deſire to have all his poor People imployed) did the 23 of *July* following write his Letter to the Lord Mayor of the City of *London*; as is hereafter expreſſed.

CHARLES R.

RIght Truſty and well-beloved, We greet you well. Whereas Our Royal Father of Bleſſed Memory, did in the year 1632. *Conſtitute and Eſtabliſh a Society of Fiſhers, and Declared that He was reſolved by all good occaſions favourably to aſſiſt, and*

graciously accept the forwardness of all those that should expres their zeal to His Majesties Service in so general and publick an Undertaking; It being then Resolved and Concluded by His Majesty, that it was very honorable & necessary for this Kingdom. Now that the true managing and most advantageous prosecution thereof, is by experience discovered by Philip *late Earl of* Pembroke *and* Mountgomery *and his Associates, who did cause sundry Fishing Vessels to be provided and built, which imployed many Families in making of Nets and other Provisions (one Vessel imploying twenty Families in work) besides the breeding of Country Youths to be made serviceable Mariners in short time, as by the Book called* The Royal Herring Buss Fishings, *presented unto Us doth plainly*

plainly appear. And whereas We are informed that the Nation doth abound with great numbers of poor Families and Vagrants, who for want of imployment are like to periſh, unleſs ſome ſpeedy care be taken for their relief: And that the ſeveral Wards and Suburbs of this Our City of London *and Hamlets adjacent, are burthened with multitudes of poor people, not onely which are born in the ſaid places, but ſuch as come out of ſundry Countries to ſeek Relief: For Redreſs whereof, We do hereby recommend unto the care of You Our Lord Mayor of the ſaid City, to adviſe with each Alderman, and cauſe his VVard-moote Inqueſt to give in a particular of all the poor Inhabitants within his VVard, what their employment is, and how many are without employment, and preſent the ſame to the reſt of*

the

the Inhabitants in his Ward, with a Copy thereof, and excite them to a free ſubſcription for raiſing a Stock to buy Hemp and Clapboards to make Herring Fiſhing-nets, and Barrels for the furniſhing and fitting out of one Buſs or Fiſhing Veſſel to belong to the ſaid Ward, which will give all the Poor and Vagrants employment; the ſaid Ward husbanding the ſame to their beſt advantage. The which We ſhall in like manner recommend to all the Counties, Cities and Towns within Our Dominions, whereby to make it a National employment for the general good, and will give all fitting aſſiſtance unto the Undertakers for their encouragement. That ſo when Proviſions ſhall be made ready and Store-houſes built in commodious places about the River of Thames, *(where breaches have been made)*

made) and the like in the ſeveral Ports, Magazines may be fitted with Nets, Caske, Salt and all things in readineſs, the Buſſes may all go forth to Our Iſland of Sheteland *as their Rendezvouz to keep together in their fiſhing, according to certain Orders preſcribed in the aforeſaid Book. And to take that priviledge of the Fiſhing-grounds which belongs to Us before all Nations whatſoever. And ſo* We *bid you heartily farewell.*

Given at our Court at *Whitehall* this 23 day of *July*, in the Twelfth year of our Raign.

By His Majeſties Command.
Ed. Nicholas.

To our Right Truſty and well-beloved, the *Lord Mayor* of Our City of *London*, to be Communicated to the Court of Aldermen.

But although it be thirteen Moneths ſince, there is nothing done therein; which His Majeſty finding ſo great remiſnels in putting the buſineſs into action, hath now granted a Commiſſion unto 36 Noble Perſonages and great Officers, whom His Majeſty hath nominated and conſtituted to be the Council of the *Royal Fiſhing* of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, of which His Majeſty will vouchſafe ever to be, and be called Protectors; and hath granted many Priviledges and Immunities, as to Perſons, Veſſels, and Goods, as therein is largely expreſſed; which being under the Great Seal of *England*, is printed; together with the Letters-Patents for a free Collection over all *England* and *Ireland*, and Dominion of *Wales*, committed to the care of the High Sheriffs in every County, to be read in all Pariſhes; ſent under the Seal of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Pembroke*, who is appointed by His Majeſty to be the Treaſurer for receiving and paying out of all ſuch moneys as ſhall be paid unto him; which Moneys is onely to be imployed in the building of Wharfs, Docks, Storehouſes, and Graineries, for the eaſe and accommodation of all thoſe that ſhall imploy any Stock in building of Buſſes; the want whereof formerly hindred the Adventurers, and put them unto extraordinary charges, having no convenient places for receiving Proviſions, and tanning and drying their Nets, and repacking their Herrings, to make them Merchantable Ware for Foraign vent, according to the *Holland* Orders expreſſed in the Book called, *The Royal Herring-Buſs Trade*. So that now whatſoever ſhall be collected in the County, City, or Shire, ſhall be applied unto that Port which doth thereunto belong, for the building them Store-houſes, Wharfs, *&c.* whether the work of the Poor, in making of Deepings or Quarter-nets of 60 maſhe deep and 40 yards long, may be ſent, and there tanned und made up, and fitted for the Buſs or Buſſes which that County ſhall build or buy, and fit out againſt the ſeaſon of fiſhing, according as His Majeſties Letter expreſſeth. And becauſe the ſetting up a new Trade in the Countries not of late years taught or practiſed, will ſeem unacceptable unto ſome, yet the eaſineſs of learning, which is taught in half an hour to make a Maſhe in the

the right manner, one will teach another; and the publiſhing of this Imployment will bring forth thoſe that are experienced to teach all the Arts thereunto belonging; and the getting of the Proviſions of Hemp to be beaten, hatcheled, and ſpun into Twine, for the making of Nets; wherein the leaſt child may be imployed, and the lame and blind may get a livelihood, and the Poor of every Pariſh raiſe by their labors weekly a ſufficient maintenance thereby to relieve themſelves and the aged and impotent of that place; whereby there will be no need of Aſſeſsments on the Pariſhioners for their maintenance, if once the buſineſs were in action, the benefit thereof would ſoon appear. For incouragement, we have the *Hollanders* flouriſhing eſtate before us, who by this Fiſhing-Trade commands the Wealth of all Nations, and cauſeth all the Poor of the *Netherlands* to live comfortably, and not a Beggar or Vagrant to be ſeen amongſt them. For there is not a Maid-ſervant amongſt them, but hath her Adventure in the Buſſes that go out, and hath her proportionable profit at the return of the Buſſes; which makes them take ſpare time to make half a dozen of Nets in the winter, and fits them ready againſt the Seaſon, to ſend as her Adventure, and at return receives them, and gets them tanned, newed, and fitted againſt the next ſetting out, having made as many more ready to put in their rooms; and ſo every one looks to the preſervation and husbanding of their own Nets, which is a great help in the diſpatch of the Buſs to her Fiſhing-grounds. And that the Fiſhermen may have all Proviſions ready in the Store-houſes, of Salt, Cask, and Nets, with Beer and Bisket, *&c.* for their diſpatch. And if the monied-men in the County or place where theſe Magazines ſhall be erected will be pleaſed to imploy their Monies in furniſhing the Store-houſes with the Proviſions for the Fiſhers, they will finde it their beſt Trade; for the Merchants and others that will ſet out Buſſes, will be much incouraged in their Proceedings, when as they know there are Wharfs and Magazines for their accommodations, as it is in the *Netherlands*, where the Ship-wrights have in their Docks, Buſſes to ſell ready for the Merchant to buy, or to hire, and Nets, Wayeropes, and all Proviſions in the Magazines to be bought, and in a few days they are furniſhed out to the Fiſhing-grounds without loſs of

time; ſo that any one, either by himſelf or in an Aſſociation, may pleaſe to make an experiment of the Trade, and ſhall enjoy all the Priviledges that are granted, mentioned in the Commiſſion, to make his Imployment profitable, for his future incouragement.

Now forasmuch as ſince the publiſhing of His Majeſties Letters-Patents in the Churches, the generality not much regarding what was read, having been too often troubled with Briefs, gave in a formal way very ſparingly; others not conceiving the buſineſs, took ſome prejudice thereat; and others deſiring to be better informed how to begin and ſet upon the Work, I do humbly offer theſe particulars following, for explaining and information of the Work.

Firſt, If any man will propoſe by himſelf alone to imploy a Stock in ſetting out of one Herring-Buſs, the burthen not exceeding 60 Tuns, which is the beſt proportion, and will require 800 *l.* ſtock; for there muſt be 100 Nets fitted, which is, 50 at ſetting out, and 50 kept ready at return, when the Buſs delivers her firſt 50 to be newed and tanned againſt her ſecond return; the Buſs may be built or bought, as beſt can be provided, an able Husband being firſt gotten, that can manage the buſineſs with knowledge and honeſty in the frugalleſt way, who may procure able Fiſhermen, and may ſoon be furniſhed out of thoſe ſmall Boats which are called Traules, Cobbles, and Trinckerboats, which fiſh all about the Coaſts, which being poor men, by thoſe ſmall Veſſels can hardly maintain their Families, and therefore would hold it great preferment to be called into ſuch Buſſes; and from *Yarmouth* get two or three good Gippers, Salters, and Packers of the Herrings, and good Maſters who are trained up thereunto, who would gladly be imployed; and their Art and Skill in one Voyage would be attained. The directions of all things belonging, I have particularly expreſſed in my Book called, *The Herring-Buſs Trade*, to be had at the Widow *Bourns* Shop, at the South entrance of the *Royal Exchange*, *London*, to which refer.

Secondly, He ſhall have the accommodation of the Wharfs, Docks and Storehouſes which are to be builded in all places where the conveniency will be moſt advantagious for the buſineſs, there to have the Nets tanned and dried, newed and fitted up, and their Herring packed and made merchantable

for

for Foraign vent; according to the *Hollanders* Orders in the said Book; which will be both very convenient and profitable, for it will save 10 *per cent.* in charges.

Thirdly, He shall enjoy all the Priviledges and Immunities granted by His Majesties Commission, and reap the Profits to himself, and have his Stock at his own command, onely to be ready by the last of *May* to set forth for the Island of *Sheteland*, whither all the Busses are first to go as their Rendezvouz, and observe the Orders; whereof every Buss at the setting out from the Port, shall receive a printed Paper of Directions and Orders to be observed, according as the Agents deputed and authorized shall appoint.

And having met with a Manuscript (the Author and time unknown) concerning this Herring-Fish-Trade, apprehending the same to be worth the publishing, have added it in this my Treatise, directly as the Author hath framed it, which men of ingenuity may make use of to their best advantage.

A Design for G. B. M^o^ *for Sea-Security.*

THE first thing required is Strength, to Defend and Offend, as occasion requires; that is, the Making and Building of 156 Sail of Ships. And for a Petty Navy-Royal to be Men of War, fitting in all points, in a proportion assign'd as may be related in all particulars. And the Charge may be 388000 l.

If this may be performed, then employ 78 Sail, being the one half of 156, to be at Sea, and there to continue the full time of six Months; and at the six Months end, the other 78 Sail to be with the former, to relieve those Seas and Sea-places, as the former hath done; and there to continue the full time of six Months more. And the former to return presently to the Ports assigned to them. And so from six Months to six Months to continue for ever.

The Use of this Navy is great, in defending our Sea-coasts, as this design requires. First, we begin from *Shotland*, in 59 *degrees* 30 *minutes* North-Latitude, and down round about the *South* part of *England*, *Wales*, and *South-South West*, and *West* Coast of *Ireland*, up to the *Black-Rock* in

53 *degrees* 30 *minutes* North-Latitude. In this Petty Navy-Royal may be employed 7848 Men, both with Victuals and Pay, and the Charge may be 188352 l. a year.

The Proportion assigned for the 90 Busses, *are these* 6 *Sorts, and according to these, all the rest go generally in proportion the one to the other in their nature.*

	B.	*Tun.*
1 ¼	15	122 ½
1 ½	15	105
1 ¼	15	087 ½
1	15	070
¾	15	052 ½
½	15	035
	90	472 ½

The Charge in general for the 90 Busses, Nets, Victuals, *and* Pay, *in* 4 *years time.*

			l.	*s.*	*d.*
90	B		46164	07	06
5070	N		27330	00	00
1 Y Fish	C		57579	08	09
2 Y Fish	C		72576	11	03
3 Y Fish	C		67281	11	03
4 Y Interest	C		43200	00	00
The gen. Charge in 4 Year			314130	18	19

The Profit of fish taken in the three years time.

			l.	*s.*	*d.*
3 Y Fish	P		449550	00	00
3 Y tenth			044955	00	00
R in M	P		404595	99	00
4 Y	C		314130	18	09
R in M	P		090464	01	03
R in Stock	M		067281	11	03
R in M	cle		023182	10	00

If this aforesaid being performed, then this design following may well prosper, with great encrease to *G. B. M.* o both

both in ſtrength and in wealth, to defend that againſt any two Kings in Chriſtendom.

A Proportion aſſigned touching the Art of Fiſhing.

If 90 Adventurers put in 1500 *l.* a man, to make a Stock of a 135000 *l.* to continue for 4 years time, and allowing Intereſt 8 *per cent.* for the time.

And the Stock of 135000 *l.* will perform this deſign; that is, to build and make thoſe 90 Buſſes in a proportion aſſign'd: and 5070 Nets to furniſh thſe 50 Buſſes, and alſo to Victual and Pay, Cask and Salt, as it may be in particulars appear.

Here it appeareth, that the Stock 135000 *l.* is all paid, and in 3 years time of Fiſhing and Intereſt 43200 *l.* paid; and the tenth of Fiſh 44955 *l.* paid, which is in all 223155 *l.* paid.

And reſt in Stock,

			l.	*s.*	*d.*
Re. in	Stock	90 B	46164	07	06
R in	Stock	5070 N	27330	00	00
R in	Stock	in M	67281	11	03
R G in	Stock	b. n. m.	140775	18	09
R in	Caſh	in M	23182	10	00

l.			*l.*	*s.*	*d.*
135000					
043200	Reſt in Caſh	in M	23182	10	00
044955					
223155					

The 90 Adventurers out of this *R.* in Caſh take 250 *l.* a man clear gain, and *R.* in Caſh 682 *l.* 10 *s.* 00 *d.* over and above all charges deducted: And in 4 years time a good profit.

So here it appeareth, that the 90 Adventurers hath gained 140775 *l.* 18 *s.* 09 *d.* for a continual Stock always yearly to be employed, with allowance yearly in the charge before propounded, 67281 *l.* 18 *s.* 09 *d.* therein for the repairing both of Buſſes, Nets, Salt, Cask, as need requires.

And

And every Adventurer hath clear to himself 250 *l.* in ready mony for their pains, and yet a reſt in Caſh 682 *l.* 10 *s.* over and above all charges. And if good-husbandry be therein performed, there may be the better part of 20000 *l.* ſaved, and made by the beſt advantage, in managing the ſame. But I leave that to their wiſdoms, that ſhall perform the deſigne.

All this is gained, and that in 4 years time.

After this time, then every years Fiſhing for Herring, Ling, and Cod, there may be gained by well employing this Stock 67281 *l.* 11 *s.* 03 *d.* the ſum of 700 *l.* a year to each Adventurer; a fair purchaſe, and without any mony given for it.

If it prove but 600 *l.* a year, it is a great encreaſe; and maintain better than 100000 perſons, Men, Women, and Children.

Now admitting 16 men and boys to ſerve in a Buſs, they may be theſe, a Maſter, a Mate, 4 Fiſhermen, 4 ordinary Saylors, and then 6 Land-men and boys to be trained up by the former in the Art of Sayling and Craft of Fiſhery, it will be a means that every Buſs ſhall be a Seminary of Saylors and Officers; which will be no ſmall addition to the ſtrength of this Kingdom.

And whereas its doubted, we ſhall not finde utterance and ſale of Herrings when we have them; I am informed that there is yearly uttered and ſpent in His Majeſties own Dominions, 10000 Laſts of Herrings, which being ſerved by our ſelves, will keep in the Land abundance of Treaſure, which the *Dutch* yearly carries out for the Herrings which they catch on our own Coaſts and ſell to us.

Sundry Quaries and Objections offered to conſideration.

1. Whether the raiſing of ſtock in the Pariſhes for ſetting of the poor on work, whereby they may get 3 *s.* 4 *d.* a week a piece for their maintenance, either by beating of Hemp, ſpinning of Twine, making of Nets, *&c.* or by way of Aſſeſsment in every Pariſh, to allow them 6 *d.* or 8 *d.* a week to maintain them in idleneſs; and ſo loſe that profit which their labours would produce, is moſt profitable and honourable for the Kingdom?

2. Whe-

2. Whether any other Imployment for the Poor is more profitable to the Kingdom than the Herring-fishing is? for the consumptive charge is onely Salt and Barrels, the cost thereof is but 4 *s.* for a Barrel of pickled Herrings or Cod-fish, which is sold for 20 *s.* And so there is gained by the labors of the Poor 16 *s. per* Barrel, for the wear and tear of the Buss and Cordage. Or that the Stranger shall be permitted to take the Herrings and Fish at our own doors, and make us to buy them at their own price; whereas we might serve them, and imploy many Ships in the exportation of them, and in the importation of their proceeds.

3. Whereas it is desired by the Fishmongers in *London*, that the Nation may be restrained to eat Salt-fish certain days in the week, for the better vending thereof; it shall not need, for the Foraign vent will carry away more than our own Fishers can take; and that if such an Injunction should be, it would be a great damage to the Nobility and Gentry of this Kingdom, because their Tenants could not subsist without raising of Cattel for the improvement of their Farms, whereby they may have money to pay their Rents.

4. This Fishing-trade will be both profitable to Fishmongers, Graziers, and Farmers; for every Fishing-Buss is victualled forth with a quantity of Flesh and Fish, and Bacon, Bisket, Pease, Oatmeal, Beer, Butter, Cheese, and sundry Implements, &c. which sundry Tradesmen will finde benefit by the furnishing of all Necessaries; and as the Busses do increase, so the expence will be more and more; and their victualling with fresh fish will cost them nothing but their pains to catch them.

It remains now, that men will up and be doing, to put so great, honourable, and profitable a business into action, without any further delay, putting the poor and vagrant People to work, for the making of Nets and other Provisions against the 30 of *May* next, which is the time the Busses must go to the North Seas fishing, according to the seasons wherein the Herrings rise first at *Shete-Land*, and the *Doggerbank* in *June* and *July*, about 100 Leagues eastward; which Herrings are called Seasticks, and are bought at Sea, and carried to *Danzick* and *Hamborough*, and those places near for vending of them, being fat Herrings, and must be spent.

This great Work of the *Royal Fishing* being put into a National Imployment, and not by way of a Corporation, or in a joint stock, is left to every mans liberty to imploy his own stock as he pleaseth, either by himself apart, or in a way of Association, setting the Poor

on

on work to make his Deepings and Nets, and all Provisions there-unto belonging, and then he shall enjoy all the Priviledges granted by His Majesty, and all the Profits he shall raise thereby, he shall enjoy to himself. So there will be no need of any Subscriptions for raising a Stock as the way of the *East-India* Company is. But the several Wards and Hamblets about, and all the Towns, Cities, and Parishes in His Majesties Dominions of *England* and *Ireland*, may raise Stocks amongst themselves for setting of their poor on work, either by Subscriptions or Assessments, or by Legacies and Gifts, and enjoy their Stocks and Profits to themselves, together with all the Priviledges granted, or to be granted by His Majesty. And those Honourable Lords mentioned in the Commission, have nothing to do with their Stocks; they only appoint Laws and Orders to be observed for the better government of the Trade, Fishermen and Mariners, and to delegate Judges in all convenient places near the fishing Ports, to decide those controversies that shall arrise; and to elect, constitute and depute, make and authorize, Officers, Ministers, and Agents, to manage, act, and perform all such Affairs, Business, Transactions and Imployments, as concern or be effectual and advantagious to, and for, the carrying on this good and great Work; and to procure of His Majesty from time to time all such other Priviledges and Immunities necessary, as shall be desired; and to cause that the monies gathered by the Briefs, and raised by the Lottery, shall be truly imployed in the building of Store-houses, Wharfs, and Docks, for the benefit of all those that shall set forth Busses, *&c.* And the work which the Officers, Ministers, and Agents, whom they shall delegate Power unto for managing this great Business, is.

1. To procure the Monies collected by Briefs, and by the Lottery, to be speedily brought in to the Treasurers.

2. To visit all the Ports for the best conveniency of building Storehouses and Docks.

3. To contract for the Grounds with the Owners thereof.

4. Treat with able and honest Workmen about the Buildings.

5. To provide the Timber and Planks, and all materials.

6. To place Overseers and Visitors over the workmen and Labourers, to take care that they and every of them perform and do their works and labors sufficiently and honestly.

7. To settle Clerks to keep a Register of all Contracts made, and to keep account of all the Materials bought and spent, that nothing be wasted or imbesseled.

8. To keep a Leger-book of Accompts, wherein to post up all the Journals and Cash-books belonging unto the business, both Debtor and Creditor, which may alwaies shew the Lords Commissioners the true state of all the Transactions of their Business.

FINIS.